

THE
DISSEMINATOR
Nova Scotia Provincial Library
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THE DISSEMINATOR

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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Questions or comments about the activities in this issue should be directed to the contact people named. Comments on or suggestions for THE DISSEMINATOR should be directed to Sue Dirani ([sdirani](#)). To add a name to the mailing list, send a message to Debbie Ross ([dross](#)).

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COMMUNITY ACCESS PROJECT WORKSHOPS

Nova Scotia was the first province to host these workshops presented by Canada's Coalition for Public Information with leaders Stan Skrzyszewski and Maureen Cubberley and sponsored by Industry Canada. Workshops were held in Digby, Stellarton, Port Hawksbury and Sydney Mines, Sept. 25-28 and were very well attended by a variety of groups within the community. Emphasis was placed on the fact that Nova Scotia is in a leading position in providing infrastructure and information access through the public access sites currently in place in public libraries, community colleges and schools throughout the province. The workshops were designed to encourage communities to form partnerships between the various groups interested in developing their communities and apply for a CAP grant. Clearly libraries have a golden opportunity to be significant partners in a coalition of community groups applying for Community Access Project funding at \$30,000 maximum per community. This funding can also be a credit towards locally generated fundraising.

The Provincial Committee members for the CAP are Marion Pape, Nova Scotia Provincial Library; Michael Jeffrey, Learning Resources and Technology; Gordon Michael, Community Education Consultant; Paul Surette, Nova Scotia Federation of Community Networks; Tony Lamport, Economic Renewal Agency and Ken Simpson, Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. The committee is still being formed and will be adding additional members from rural and remote areas of the province.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS

A small working group has planned how to make the best use of matching a \$100,000 grant from Canadian Heritage to expand the development of French Library Services province-wide. Plans include hiring a coordinator whose responsibilities would include providing leadership and promoting French library services province-wide in both print and electronic formats, liaising and seeking partnerships with francophone organizations and institutions.

Recruitment for the new coordinator will start immediately. It is important that we implement this program as quickly as possible so that we can achieve early results. The ideal candidate would have, among other qualities, a sound knowledge of the Acadian and French speaking communities, an understanding of collection development, information services and programming, and the ability to work in English and in French. This position will be located in an Acadian region, possibly at the Western Counties Regional Library in Yarmouth. The duration of this position is one year, with potential for renewal for another two years. Please send resumes or suggestions to Andrea John (ajohn@nshpl.library.

ns.ca).

COUNCIL OF REGIONAL LIBRARIANS MEETING

CORL held its regular fall meeting in September at Provincial Library. Hot topics included fundraising, strategic planning, and the amalgamation of metro libraries. A half day was spent with a facilitator, to kick start the next stage of the library strategic planning process. The group identified its current place in the strategic planning process, determined what "bumps in the road" are ahead of us, and examined the elements which need to be present in order for us to complete the process. LBANS was unable to send a representative but Frances Newman attended the workshop on behalf of NSLA. It was agreed that the next steps should be to continue working with a facilitator to map out how the strategic plan will be completed by next spring, and to meet again on November 3 to move forward on the first step. During the CORL meeting, the Chief Librarians also enjoyed a training session on NcompasS and the Internet.

NEW BRANCH LIBRARY FOR DARTMOUTH

On September 1 in the true spirit of amalgamation, library staff from Dartmouth, Halifax, Halifax County, and the NS Provincial Library gathered in Dartmouth's North End to celebrate the sod-turning for the new Community Centre which will house a new branch library. The 1.7 million dollar facility is being built under the Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure Works Program and will be a great addition to Dartmouth's North End. The Community Centre will be a cultural multi-purpose facility offering recreational and educational services to young and old alike. One of the major components of the centre is the new branch library which will open early in February of 1996.

WORD ON THE STREET - BIG SUCCESS

The word on the street is that the Word on the Street festival was a big success. The festival, which took place in Halifax on Sunday September 24, was a celebration of reading and literacy. Author readings, musical acts and buskers entertained the crowds on Spring Garden Road while many bookstores and local book and magazine publishers displayed and sold their wares. The metro libraries (Halifax City, Halifax County, Dartmouth and the Provincial Library) were also represented in a booth that promoted literacy programs as well as library services in general.

IMPROVED NSPL HOME PAGE

The next time you connect to the Provincial Library's WWW site, you'll notice quite a difference. We've reorganized the information, added some fancy graphics and included some new links. You can expect even more changes over the next little while as we work to make our home page as functional and user-friendly as possible. So don't delay! Check us out at "<http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca>" to see for yourself. For more information contact Sue Dirani (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

GOVERNMENT HOME PAGE

Andrea John, Coordinator of User Services, has been participating in an Internet Focus Group to design a home page for all Nova Scotia government departments and services which will centralize access to the various Internet sources now available. The new home page will have a unified corporate look. This initiative is being implemented in conjunction with the N.S. Marketing Agency Home Page. Thus far the Focus Group has discussed issues such as security of the Visual Identity Program artwork and whether providing a link to a private industry site constitutes an endorsement. The Group also agreed that some standardization for each Department is desirable, with the following suggested headings: Minister, News, Services, About the Department, People, Publications, Initiatives, and Other Government Links. The site is intended to be a direct marketing and advertising tool to sell Nova Scotia as a possible vacation site and business location. A launch is planned for this fall.

RACE RELATIONS TRAINING

It's back to the classroom for provincial employees! To help the province's employees become more aware and sensitive to the issues of race relations and employment equity, the N.S. Department of Human Resources has implemented a 2-day educational program for all employees within the Nova Scotia public service. Through the definition of terms, videos and presentations, individual and group activities and discussions, participants are invited to explore how various people differ, to evaluate their own personal standpoints and to discuss and develop strategies for improving their ability to communicate their concerns effectively. The program is an ambitious undertaking and, already in progress, will take the better part of two years to complete. A team of public service employees drawn from various departments has been trained to facilitate this course. The program provides a forum for employees from different departments to share specific, day-to-day situations related to these issues and brings a realization that race relations and employment equity are not concerns contrived by bureaucrats but are real problems met by fellow workers. You don't have any biases and prejudices? The program also gives the employee the opportunity to explore - publicly or privately - their own pre-judgments and yes, like it or not, we all have them. Discovering what our personal biases are, deciding how deeply they affect our personal environment and determining what we can or want to do about them can be the most important benefit of this program.

SUMMER READING CLUB WINNERS

The winners of the 1995 Summer Reading Programme grand prize draw were recently announced and the prizes awarded. Three lucky youngsters each received a basketful of books about dinosaurs as well as some "dino"-bilia. The winners were: Quen Singer, 5, of Moser River (Halifax County), Katy Patrice Connors, 10, of Stewiacke (Colchester- East Hants) and David Jamieson, 7, of Bridgewater (South Shore). Thousands of children and youths across the province participated in their local library's Summer Reading Club and received a ballot to try their luck on the grand prizes. The prizes were donated by H.H. Marshall and presented by their representative Linda Cruikshank.

STAFFING NOTES

On the 29th of September we bid a happy retirement to Shirley Gilbert whose career at the Provincial Library spanned a record-breaking thirty years! Of those thirty years, Shirley spent over twenty six in User Services and almost four in Technical Services. Shirley was surprised and honoured by the attendance at her retirement luncheon of two former supervisors, Lorraine McQueen, University Librarian at Acadia and Jerry Miner from Agriculture Canada.

Marion Pape will be on a well earned vacation from October 2-13 inclusive and from October 20-27. Elizabeth Armstrong will be Acting Provincial Librarian during Marion's absence.

Two new staff members joined the Provincial Library this month - Loretta Young and Gayle Ford. Loretta has worked with us in the past and will be performing the duties of the LA2 cataloguing position while Laurinda Matheson is on maternity leave. Gayle will also be performing cataloguing duties until the end of March. She comes to us most recently from UPEI and has worked in a variety of libraries in Toronto. We welcome them both.

PROFESSIONAL READING

This month's column features two new books which we have recently added to our Professional Collection in the area of Information Technology.

1) Skrzyszewski, Stan. Canada's Public Libraries and the Information Highway: a Report Prepared for Industry Canada. Ontario: Canada's Coalition for Public Information, 1995. (Call# Prof 384 .3 Skr)

- The Coalition for Public Information conducted this study which reviews the current state of library networking in Canada and begins to determine the costs involved in providing a complete networked library infrastructure. It presents a brief description of public library networking across Canada, identifies the issues involved and provides recommendations.

2) Tapscott, Don. Paradigm Shift: the New Promise of the Information Technology. New York: McGraw-Hill, c1993. (Call# Prof. 658 .4 Tap)

- The central theme of this book is that a fundamental change is taking place in the nature and application of technology in business. This change has profound and far reaching implications for your organization and for you. Throughout the book's 12 chapters, the author presents thought provoking ideas and provides a thorough analysis of these fundamental changes that are sweeping our society.

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